

# A summary on Danish field and anti-aircraft artillery units in 1940

## Introduction

This article is intended as a summary in English of my various Danish language papers on Danish field and anti-aircraft units. A link next to an illustration will lead to the corresponding article in Danish.

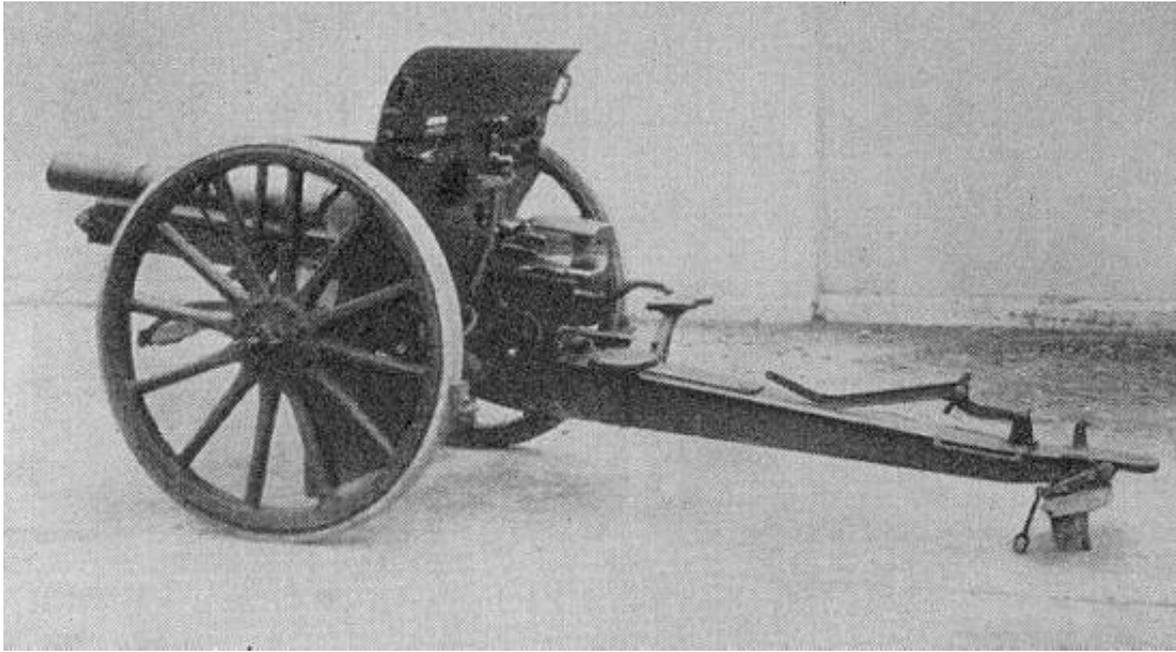
## The units

According to the 1937-organization, the Danish Army had 3 field artillery regiments and 1 air-defence regiment:

<b>Regiment</b>	<b>Battalions</b>	<b>Garrison</b>	<b>Type</b>
1. Field Artillery Regiment <i>(with The Zealand Division)</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Artillery Battalion	Copenhagen	Light, motorized battalion
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery Battalion	Copenhagen	Heavy, motorized battalion
	6 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Copenhagen	Heavy, motorized battalion
2. Field Artillery Regiment <i>(with The Zealand Division)</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Ringsted	Light, horse drawn battalion
	5 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Holbaek	Light, motorized battalion
	11 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Ringsted	Light, horse drawn battalion
	12 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Holbaek	Light, motorized battalion
3. Field Artillery Regiment <i>(with The Jutland Division)</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Artillery Battalion	Aarhus	Light, horse drawn battalion
	7 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Aarhus	Heavy, motorized battalion
	8 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Haderslev	Light, motorized battalion
	9 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Aarhus	Light, horse drawn battalion

Air-defence Regiment (with <i>The Zealand Division</i> )	10 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Copenhagen Stationary, air-defence battalion
(with <i>The Jutland Division</i> )	13 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Copenhagen Motorized, anti-aircraft battalion
	14 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion	Aarhus Motorized, anti-aircraft battalion

## Field artillery



75mm M.1902 field gun.

In 1902 the Danish Army ordered 128 x 75mm field guns from the German Krupp Factories.

A number of other types - from Cockerill, Erhardt, Schneider and Krupp - had been tested before the order, amounting to DKK 5 millions, was placed.

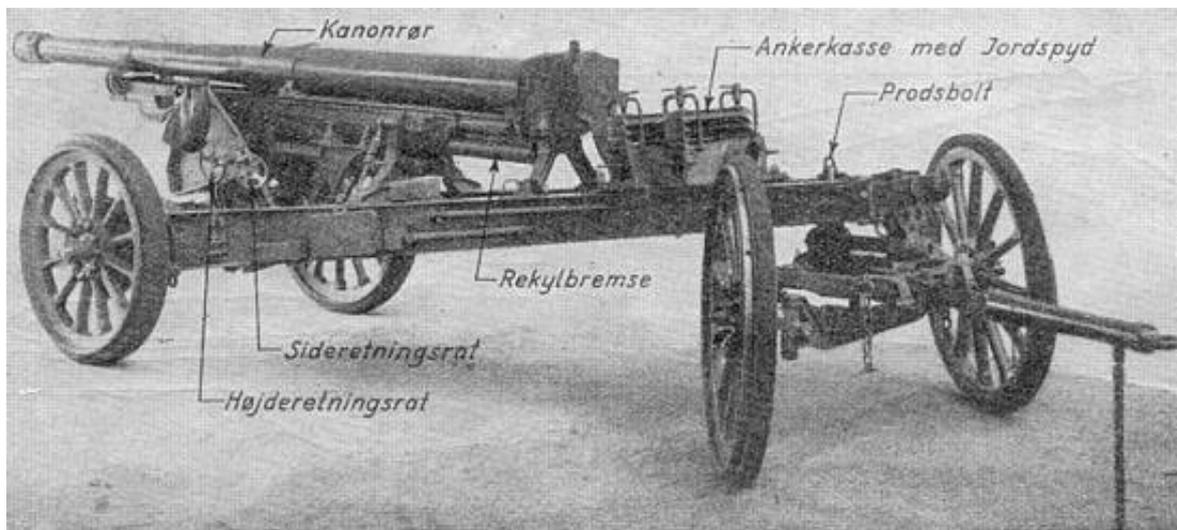
In 1937, 8 of the 11 field artillery battalions were equipped with the 75mm Model 1902 field gun, 96 in total.



Horse drawn 75mm M.1902 field gun.



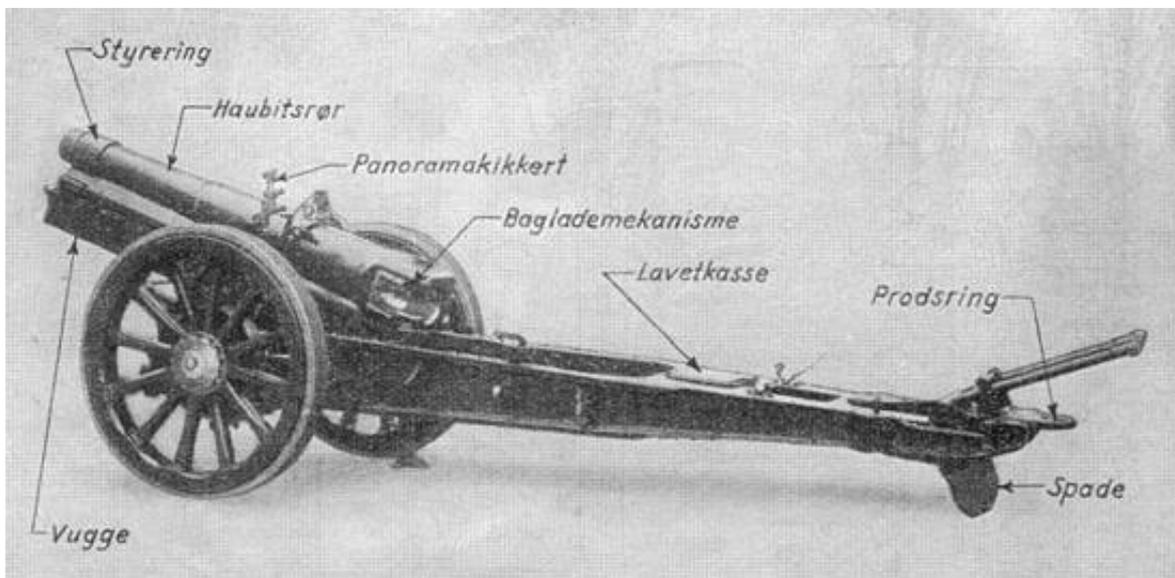
Contemporary postcard showing the 5<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion, lined up for inspection, at Jaegerspris Camp, circa 1939.



10½cm M.1930 field gun.

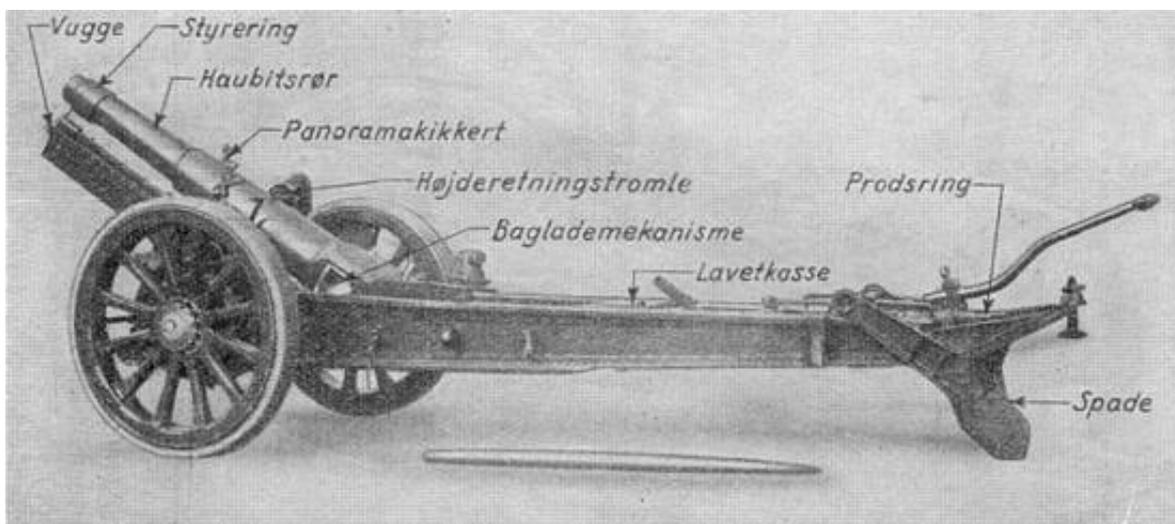
During the late 1927-1928 contracts were made with the French company - Schneider & Cie - on acquiring 24 x 15cm howitzers and 12 x 10½cm field guns.

The contract on the field guns was signed in 1928; some was produced in France, and the rest in Denmark. The last entered service in 1932.



15 cm M.1917 field howitzer.

During the First World War a contract was signed with Bofors in Sweden on delivery of 12 up-to-date field howitzers, to be produced in Denmark.



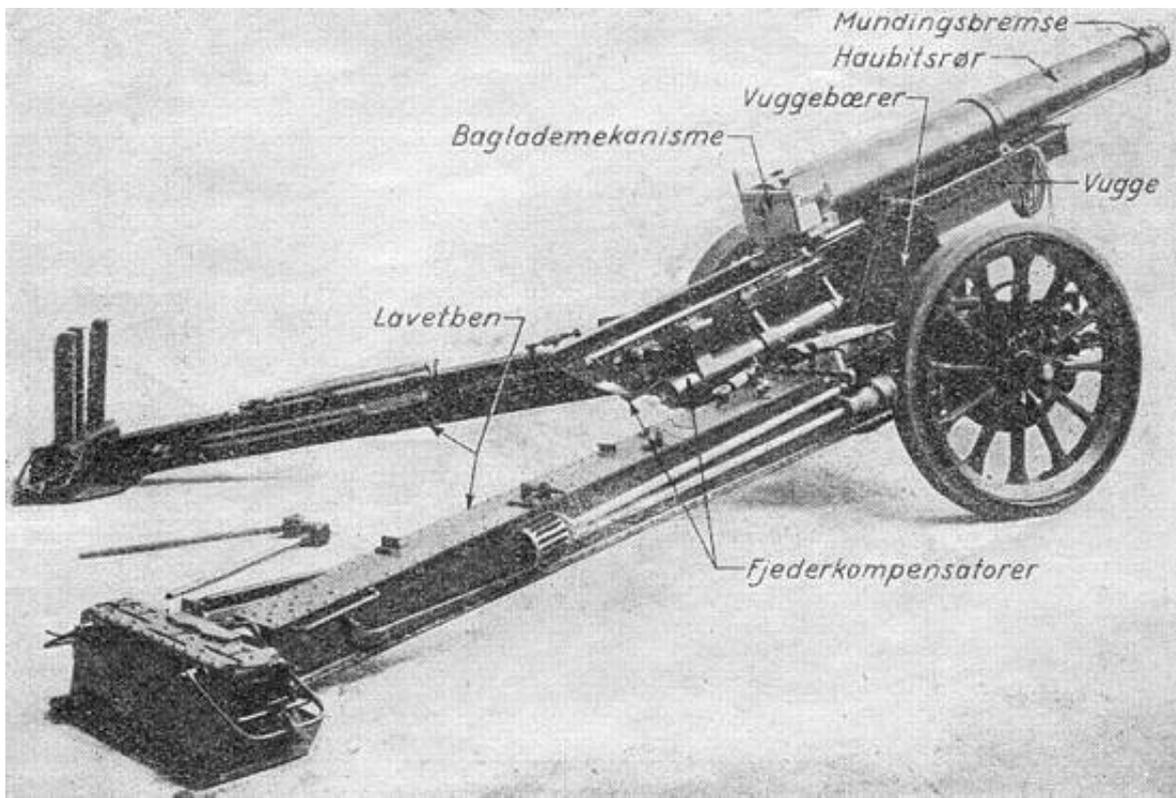
15 cm M.1923 field howitzer.

4 were produced during the war (M.1917), but only 4 of the remaining were produced later (M.1923). At that time it was decided not to produce the remaining 4, since their range were too short.

Careful studies of the photos will reveal that the similar looking models are a little different.

A series of tests regarding a modern field howitzer ended in 1927, and a contract on delivery of 24 field howitzers were signed with the French firm Schneider & Cie.

4 were delivered from France, and the rest produced in Denmark. The last entered service in 1931.



15 cm M.1929 field howitzer.



Contemporary postcard showing a 15cm M.1929 field howitzer battery, at Jaegerspris Camp, circa 1939.

Field gun and field howitzer data	75mm M.1902 field gun	10½cm M.1930 field gun	15 cm M.1917 howitzer	15 cm M.1923 howitzer	15 cm M.1929 howitzer
Weight (during transport) (in kilos)	2.400	5.645	4.565	4.820	5.675
Weight (in firing position) (in kilos)	1.080	5.120	4.065	4.320	5.165
Maximum range (with largest charge) (in metres)	10.000	20.150	10.800	12.700	15.000

### Field artillery organization

The light artillery battalions each had 3 batteries of 4 guns, horse drawn or motorized.

The heavy artillery battalions each had 2 batteries of 4 howitzers and 1 battery of 4 guns.

## **Anti-aircraft artillery**



75mm M.1914/16 anti-aircraft gun.

This piece of ordnance derived from a coastal gun. It was designed by the Danish engineer N.E. Lomholt and produced in Denmark.

In 1916 it was decided to produce an anti-aircraft mounting. A total of 22 guns were equipped this way. The anti-aircraft gun was later equipped with a shield.

The stationary 75mm M.1914/16 anti-aircraft guns were used to equip 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion - The Copenhagen Air-defence.

In October 1939, 14 guns were in service.



75mm M.1932 anti-aircraft gun.

Having tested various designs - Schneider, Vickers-Armstrong and Bofors - the Vickers-Armstrong anti-aircraft gun was decided upon.

A number were delivered from Britain, and the rest were produced in Denmark.

The 24 anti-aircraft guns were used to equip 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Anti-aircraft Battalion, serving in the field with The Zealand Division and The Jutland Division.

#### **Anti-aircraft gun data**

##### 75mm M.1932 anti-aircraft gun

Weight (during transport): 3.669 kilos

Weight (in firing position): 2.812 kilos

Maximum range (anti-aircraft fire): 16.000 metres

Maximum range (ground fire): 11.000 metres

*Data on the 75mm M.1914/16 anti-aircraft gun are not available.*

#### **Anti-aircraft artillery organization**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion (The Copenhagen Air-defence) consisted of the following sub-units: Battalion headquarters, a number of gun batteries, searchlight batteries, auto-cannon batteries (20mm) and machinegun batteries. This battalion was in direct command of the General Headquarters.

The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalions consisted of the following subunits: Battalion headquarters, 3 batteries each with 4 guns, all with the necessary fire control instruments (range/ height finders and predictors), 2 auto-cannon batteries (20mm), and wagon line. A number of searchlights and sound locators were included in the battery organization.

#### **In conclusion**

Picture credits together with other sources of information are given in the corresponding Danish language articles.

